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Application No. 09/814,750

Docket No. 740250-835

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of:

Atsushi KASHIOKA

Serial No. 09/814,750

Filed: March 23, 2001

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS  
FOR IMAGE PROCESSING

Examiner: Madeleine Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 2626

Confirmation No. 4223

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FEB 13 2004

Technology Center 2000

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

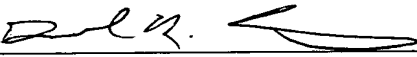
The undersigned certifies that either (1) each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or (2) no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Enclosed is a copy of the European Search Report dated December 4, 2003, for a corresponding European patent application together with the references cited therein.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. (740250-835)

Respectfully submitted,  
NIXON PEABODY LLP

By:   
Donald R. Studebaker  
Registration No. 32,815

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Suite 900  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004-2128  
  
Telephone: (202) 585-8000



<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		<b>Complete if Known</b>			
		Application Number	09/814,750		
		Filing Date	March 23, 2001		
		First Named Inventor	Atsushi KASHIOKA		
		Art Unit	2626		
		Examiner Name	Madeleine Nguyen		
Sheet		of		Attorney Docket Number	740250-835

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-4,308,553	12-29-1981	Roetling	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		EP 0 463 844 A2	01-02-1992	Ichikawa et al.		Full
		EP 0 930 775 A2	07-21-1999	Waguri		Full

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT DATED DECEMBER 4, 2003	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.